

MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION
FINANCE - TECHNOLOGY- PLANNING COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 20, 2001

EOB 12TH CONFERENCE ROOM

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Fernando Bren, Chair
Commissioner Len Marco
Commissioner Robert Freeman
President Ken Fisher, GWGVFD
Assistant Chief Mike Love, DFRS
Captain Craig Mickel, DFRS (Alt.)
Frank Kaleyias, MCFB (Alt.)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Gordon Aoyagi, Fire Administrator
District Chief Elwood Ey, DFRS
Steve Lamphier, MCFRS
Steve Kurtz, GWGVFD
Richard Riffe, MCFRS
Neil Shorb, MCFRS
Beth Feldman, MCFRS

1- **CALL TO ORDER**
(Committee Chair Bren)

The meeting of the Finance, Technology and Planning Committee was called to order by Committee Chair Bren at 7:40 a.m. in the EOB 12th floor conference room at 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, Maryland.

2- **APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 15, 2001 MEETING MINUTES**

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Freeman to approve the minutes of November 15, 2001 meeting of the Finance, Technology and Planning Committee. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Marco and PASSED unanimously.

3- **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- **Planning Subcommittee**

Efforts continue to accelerate the new Germantown fire station projects in the CIP.

- **Apparatus/Facilities Subcommittee**

Mr. Fisher indicated that the support vehicle study is still not completed and should be presented at the January 2002 FTP meeting.

Finance Subcommittee

Commissioner Marco reported the RFP was prepared for going out for bid for an insurance broker. A contract must be in place by mid-March for the MCFRS insurance broker. Chair Bren inquired on the cost of insurance. Neil Shorb anticipated that a substantial increase in insurance premiums is anticipated as a result of the hardening of the insurance market and the 9/11 attacks.

Terrorism is currently a covered loss on the insurance coverage expiring on 6/30/02. For next year, the cost of insurance for terrorist acts is expected to rise significantly. Options will need to be explored to determine if this coverage can continue.

Apparatus Acquisition Policy

Commissioner Marco recapped the three scenarios of this policy:

Apparatus that is LFRD purchased and LFRD supported
Apparatus that is LFRD purchased/county tax supported
Apparatus that is County purchased/County tax supported

The draft policy was distributed for review with a 45-day comment period. Four comments were received from Chiefs Hinde, Sherburne, Strock and Baker. Richard Riffe presented the comments from the Operations Committee's meeting on December 19, 2001 of expenditures to provide and maintain county-owned radio equipment was clarified. Mr. Riffe distinguished between the vehicle specifications and its performance requirements. It was agreed to amend Section 5(a) 5 and to delete "attempt to "the fire administrator will resolve".

Following the review of the operational components of the policy, The FTP Committee was advised of the suggestion of the Operations Committee to delete "Fire/Rescue or EMS in 6b(1) and 6b(2) on page 10.

Fire Administrator Aoyagi elaborated on county expenditures for fuel, maintenance, staffing, insurance, rehabilitation, and supplies in terms of direct vs. indirect expenses. The definition of "detailed accountability programs" was discussed. Fire Administrator Aoyagi wants to ensure that apparatus go through an approval process prior to tax funds are committed to support this apparatus.

It was agreed to delete minimum performance requirements for boats and command vehicles, and to add a category for "Other Specialized Units", indicating the performance requirements for these vehicles would be handled on a case by case basis.

Sec. 6 (responsibilities). Staff is to edit this section to correspond to the three different types of apparatus acquisition/funding. The committee then reviewed appendix of the policy.

The changes discussed today will be incorporated into the policy and this matter will be placed on the January 2002 FTP Committee meeting for action.

Technology Subcommittee

Some of the radio transmitter sites for the new radio systems are operational and testing is underway. Start up for use of the radio system is late 2002.

Mr. Kurtz asked what the status of the GIS mapping project. Chief Ey said with the exception of four maps all (of 860 maps) are completed and ready for distribution. Mr. Kurtz asked about the 3-year cycle regarding modernization of PC's. Fire Administrator Aoyagi responded that there is a delay in desktop modernization due to the budget shortfall. The GIS position is still in the budget. OMB has indicated that public safety technology related programs will continue to be supported. Chief Ey introduced the new senior planner of the MCFRS, Mr. Vinay Gulati.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Marco to adjourn the meeting. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Freeman and PASSED unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 AM

